

GLOSSARY

A-weighted. The A-scale sound level is a quantity, in decibels, read from a standard sound-level meter with A-weighting circuitry. The A-scale weighting discriminates against the lower frequencies according to a relationship approximating the auditory sensitivity of the human ear. The A-scale sound level measures approximately the relative “noisiness” or “annoyance” of many common sounds.

Attainment Area. An area considered to have air quality as good as or better than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards as defined in the Clean Air Act. An area may be in attainment for one pollutant and in non-attainment area for others.

Benthic. Those forms of life that are bottom dwelling in fresh or salt water.

Borrow area. An excavated area where material will be dug for use of fill at another location.

Bottomland. A lowland, usually highly fertile, along a stream.

Confluence. A point when two streams meet.

Decibels. The unit of measurement of sound level calculated by taking ten times the common logarithm of the ratio of the magnitude of the particular sound pressure to the stand reference sound pressure of 20 micropascals and its derivatives.

Dendritic drainage. An arrangement of surface drainage in which the streams branch randomly at almost any angle, resembling the branching habit of tress.

Detritus. Any fine particulate debris of organic origin.

Dike. A wall or embankment built around a low-lying area to prevent flooding.

Displaced person. Any person (individual, family, partnership, association, or corporation) who moves from real property as a direct result of acquisition of the real property, a written notice of intent from the government, negotiations for the purchase of the property from the government, or a written notice requiring a person to vacate real property for the purpose of demolition or improvements, provided the displacement is permanent and the property is needed for the Federally assisted project.

Endangered species. A species that is threatened with extinction throughout all or significant portion of its range.

Ecotone. A transition zone between two adjacent ecological communities, such as forest and grassland. It has some of the characteristics of each bordering community and often contains species not found in the overlapping communities. An ecotone may exist along a broad belt or in a small pocket, such as a forest clearing, where two local communities blend together. The influence of the two bordering communities on each other is known as the edge effect. An ecotonal area often has a higher density of organisms and a greater number of species than are found in either flanking community.

Floodplain. The lowland that borders a stream or river and is found outside of the floodway. It is usually dry, but subject to flooding.

Floodproofing. A voluntary program for those people living outside areas protected by floodwalls by raising the houses to a level one-foot above the 1977 flood level.

Floodwall. An artificial embankment made from concrete along a watercourse to protect land from flooding.

Floodway. The channel of a river or stream and the adjacent land that must be reserved to discharge floodwaters.

Fugitive Emissions. Emissions, which could not reasonably pass through a stack, chimney, vent or other functionally equivalent opening.

Habitat. A place where particular plants or animals occur or could occur.

Herbaceous. A plant with no persistent woody stem above ground.

Levee. An artificial embankment made from earthen material along a watercourse to protect land from flooding which is engineered.

Macrophytes. A plant large enough to be seen by the naked eye.

Macroinvertebrates. Animals without backbones that are distinctly visible to the unaided eye or with the use of a simple lens.

Meander. One of a series of sinuous curves or loops in the course of a mature stream, produced as the stream swings from side to side in flowing across its floodplain.

Noise. Sound that is perceived by humans as annoying and unwanted.

Nonattainment. Those areas designated as not having attained National Ambient Air Quality Standards for specific air pollutants.

Nonstructural measures. Methods for reduction of flood damages that do not significantly altering the nature or extent of flooding. Damage reduction from nonstructural measures is accomplished by changing the use made of the flood plains or by accommodating existing uses to the flood hazard, including acquisition, raising of structures, veneer walls, ringwalls, and flood warning systems.

Physiographic Province. A region of which all parts are similar in geologic structure and climate.

Pool. A body of impounded water.

Riffle. An expanse of shallow bottom extending across a stream; shallow rapids with comparatively little fall in elevation.

Ringwall. A barrier that protects an individual structure or small group of structures from flooding, depending on the topography of the site.

Riparian Zones. Land areas directly influenced by a body of water. Usually such areas have visible vegetation or physical characteristics showing this water influence.

Streamsides, lake borders, and marshes are typical riparian areas.

Riverine. Pertaining to the river bank

Runoff. The non-infiltrating water entering a stream or other conveyance channel shortly after a rainfall.

Sediment. Particles derived from rock or biological sources that have been transported by water.

Significance. A measure of the context and intensity of an impact. Context analysis refers to society as a whole, the affected region (of the impact area), the affected interests, and the locality. Intensity refers to the severity of impact. Intensity can be based on: benefit to the environment; effects to public health or safety; proximity to cultural/historical resources, or other ecologically critical area; public controversy; risk to humans; connection to future project impacts; connection with cumulative impacts; effects to objects listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places; threat to endangered or threatened species; or violation of a State or Federal environmental protection law.

Stoplog closure. Opening in a levee or floodwall system at road, railroad tracks, etc. that can be closed during a flooding event by placing metal “logs” into the closure.

STORET. STOrage and RETrieval is a repository for water quality, biological, and physical data and is used by state environmental agencies, EPA and other federal agencies, universities, private citizens, and many others.

Structural measures. Utilization of methods such as dams, reservoirs, ringwalls, levees, floodwalls or channel improvement to protect an area from flooding.

Terrestrial. Pertaining to the earth’s dry land.

Threatened Species. A species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Trellis Drainage. An arrangement of surface drainage characterized by parallel main streams that have right-angle tributaries; it resembles the stems of a vine on a trellis.

Upland. A general term for an extensive region of high ground.

Veneer wall. An impervious water barrier integrated with the building structure and used to protect against flood depths of less than 3 feet.

Weir. A small dam built across a river or canal so that water flows over it, serving to regulate the flow or to raise the level of water upstream.

Wetlands. Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and other similar areas.